

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An ink composition, comprising:
water;
a coloring agent; and
at least two different types of polyoxyalkylene glycol alkylethers each
having at least one oxyalkylene in a polyoxyalkylene group,
wherein at least one of the polyoxyalkylene glycol alkylethers is
polypropylene glycol-n-butyl ether having three or more oxypropylenes in its molecule.
2. The ink composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the
polyoxyalkylene glycol alkyl ethers has five or fewer carbons in its alkyl group and
twelve or fewer carbons in its oxyalkylene group.
3. The ink composition as claimed in claim 1, comprising 10 to 98 % by
weight of the water, 0.1 to 20 % by weight of the coloring agent, and 0.1 to 20 % by
weight of the polyoxyalkylene glycol alkylethers, based on the total weight of the ink
composition.
4. The ink composition as claimed in claim 3, comprising 30 to 97 % by
weight of the water, 0.3 to 15 % by weight of the coloring agent, and 0.3 to 15 % by
weight of the polyoxyalkylene glycol alkylethers, based on the total weight of the ink
composition.
5. The ink composition as claimed in claim 4, comprising 40 to 95 % by
weight of the water, 0.5 to 15 % by weight of the coloring agent, and 0.5 to 10 % by
weight of the polyoxyalkylene glycol alkylethers, based on the total weight of the ink
composition.
6. The ink composition as claimed in claim 1, comprising 1 to 80 % by
weight of the polyoxyalkylene glycol alkylethers other than the polypropylene glycol-n-
butyl ether having three or more oxypropylenes in the molecule, based on a total weight
of the polyoxyalkylene glycol alkylethers.

7. The ink composition as claimed in claim 6, comprising 3 to 60 % by weight of the polyoxyalkylene glycol alkylethers other than the polypropylene glycol-n-butyl ether having three or more oxypropylenes in the molecule, based on a total weight of the polyoxyalkylene glycol alkylethers.

8. The ink composition as claimed in claim 7, comprising 5 to 50 % by weight of the polyoxyalkylene glycol alkylethers other than the polypropylene glycol-n-butyl ether having three or more oxypropylenes in the molecule, based on the total weight of the polyoxyalkylene glycol alkylethers.

9. The ink composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polypropylene glycol-n-butyl ether having three or more oxypropylenes in the molecule is tripropylene glycol-n-butyl ether, tetrapropylene glycol-n-butyl ether, or pentapropylene glycol-n-butyl ether.

10. The ink composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein less than all of the polyoxyalkylene glycol alkylethers is polypropylene glycol-n-butyl ether having three or more oxypropylenes in its molecule.

11. The ink composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coloring agent is at least one of a dye and a pigment.

12. The ink composition as claimed in claim 11, wherein the dye is a water-soluble dye selected from a group consisting of direct dyes, acid dyes, basic dyes and reactive dyes.

13. The ink composition as claimed in claim 11, wherein the pigment is at least one of an inorganic pigment and an organic pigment.

14. The ink composition as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a dispersing agent.

15. The ink composition as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one of a dispersing agent, a surfactant, a viscosity adjusting agent, a surface tension adjusting agent, a pH adjusting agent, a liquid stabilizer, an antiseptic and a fungicide.

16. The ink composition of claim 1, wherein said polyalkylene glycol alkylethers comprise at least one of a polyethylene glycol alkylether having at least one oxyethylene group and a polypropylene glycol alkylether having at least one oxypropylene group.

17. The ink composition of claim 16, wherein said polyalkylene glycol alkylethers comprise at least one polyethylene glycol alkylether selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol methyl ether, ethylene glycol ethyl ether, ethylene glycol-n-propyl ether, ethylene glycol isopropyl ether, ethylene glycol-n-butyl ether, ethylene glycol isobutyl ether, diethylene glycol methyl ether, diethylene glycol ethyl ether, diethylene glycol-n-propyl ether, diethylene glycol isopropyl ether, diethylene glycol-n-butyl ether, diethylene glycol isobutyl ether, triethylene glycol methyl ether, triethylene glycol ethyl ether, triethylene glycol-n-propyl ether, triethylene glycol isopropyl ether, triethylene glycol-n-butyl ether and triethylene glycol isobutyl ether.

18. The ink composition of claim 16, wherein said polyalkylene glycol alkylethers comprise at least one polyethylene glycol-n-butyl ether having at least one oxyethylene group.

19. The ink composition of claim 16, wherein said polyalkylene glycol alkylethers comprise at least one polypropylene glycol alkylether selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol methyl ether, propylene glycol ethyl ether, propylene glycol-n-propyl ether, propylene glycol isopropyl ether, propylene glycol-n-butyl ether, propylene glycol isobutyl ether, dipropylene glycol methyl ether, dipropylene glycol ethyl ether, dipropylene glycol-n-propyl ether, dipropylene glycol isopropyl ether, dipropylene glycol-n-butyl ether, dipropylene glycol isobutyl ether, tripropylene glycol methyl ether, tripropylene glycol ethyl ether, tripropylene glycol-n-propyl ether, and tripropylene glycol isopropyl ether.

20. The ink composition of claim 16, wherein said polyalkylene glycol alkylethers comprise at least one polypropylene glycol-n-butyl ether having fewer than three oxypropylene groups.